

History and Social Science 2001 Standards of Learning Blueprints

Question and Answer Document

Blueprint Questions

1. **Q.** When will the new history and social science blueprints become effective?
 A. With the administration of the 2003-2004 history and social science Standards of Learning tests.

2. **Q.** Will the revised blueprints be used for testing in fall 2003?
 A. Yes.

3. **Q.** Why are there geography, civics, and economics reporting categories in the blueprints of the history courses?
 A. History is the study of past events. These events are the result of people's choices/decisions based on their geographic surroundings, their economic self-interest motives, and their desire and need for civic order. The History and Social Science Standards of Learning begin with introductions to history and the social sciences (geography, economics, and civics) in kindergarten through grade three. After grade three, geography, economics, and civics are integrated into the history content.

4. **Q.** Will the revised blueprints apply to test retakes?
 A. Retake test situations will follow the content and blueprints used at the time instruction was given. For example, a student, who has received content instruction from the History and Social Science Crosswalk of Common Content under the 1998 blueprint and needs a test retake, will retake a test matching those documents. A student needing a test retake, who receives content instruction from the Curriculum Framework and the revised blueprints, will retake a test matching those documents.

5. **Q.** Why was a blank sheet of white paper added to the ancillary materials of the revised blueprints?
 A. The use of this ancillary material becomes effective with the 2003-2004 test administrations. The inclusion of this ancillary material was based on feedback from classroom teachers and the History and Social Science Content Review Committees. The paper may be useful to students when they are tested on skills such as using a map scale of miles or directional indicators. It may also assist the visual learners to order sequencing questions and to process analysis questions by having paper on which to jot down their thoughts prior to choosing an answer.

6. **Q.** World History and Geography to 1500 A.D. (WHI) and World History and Geography: 1500 A.D. to the Present (WHII) blueprints continue to have a Geography Reporting Category. Does this mean that WHI and WHII teachers need to continue to teach designated World Geography course standards?
- A.** No. The standards assessed within the Geography Reporting Category of the revised WHI and WHII blueprints are WHI and WHII standards. The 2001 WHI and WHII Standards of Learning integrated the geography into the standards of those courses.

Grade 8 History Breakout Test Questions

1. **Q.** Is the decision for taking the breakout test option a school or division decision?
- A.** The decision is a division-wide choice.
2. **Q.** If a school division does not take the Grade 8 History Standards of Learning test breakout option in 2003-2004, may the division take the option at a later date?
- A.** Yes.
3. **Q.** At what grade level will school divisions that continue with the Grade 8 History cumulative test administer that test?
- A.** School divisions administering the Grade 8 History cumulative test will continue to have the option of giving the test at grade seven or grade eight.
4. **Q.** If a school division decides to administer the United States History to 1877 (USI), United States History: 1877 to the Present (USII), and Civics and Economics (CE) tests starting in 2003-2004, must the division also administer the cumulative Grade 8 History test for two more years so that no students will be missed in the testing of these courses?
- A.** No. Once a division chooses to implement the breakout test option for USI, USII, and CE, the students will take the test at the completion of that course. The student will not have to take tests for previous instruction given while the division was operating under the Grade 8 History cumulative test administration. For example, if a school division chooses to start the breakout test option in 2003-2004, a student who has taken USI and USII and is taking CE will take a CE breakout test. The student will not have to take a cumulative, a USI, nor a USII test.
5. **Q.** If a school division decides to take the Grade 8 History test breakout option, will the scores of the three separate tests be combined for accreditation purposes?
- A.** Yes.

6. **Q.** If the school division does not teach a separate Civics and Economics (CE) course, but rather integrates all of the CE standards and Curriculum Framework content into the United States History to 1877 (USI) and/or United States History: 1877 to the Present (USII) course(s), how will the CE be tested?
- A.** The students will take a CE test when all of the CE standards have been taught. For example, students are taught some CE standards in USI and the remaining are taught in USII. At the end of the USII course, students will take a USII test and a separate CE test. If students were taught all CE standards in USI, at the end of the course, students would take a USI test and a separate CE test. Choosing the breakout option means giving three separate tests.

Grade 8 History and Social Science Breakout Test Option Timeline

Spring 2003	<p>Selected school divisions will participate in stand alone field tests* for the separate tests: United States History to 1877, United States History: 1877 to the Present, and Civics and Economics. Field tests scores do not count for students or accreditation.</p> <p>*Stand alone field tests are used to derive statistical data for placement of test questions into the test bank from which live tests will be developed for 2003-2004.</p>
Fall 2003	Administration of Grade 8 History cumulative test or breakout tests for divisions that are on block schedule.
Spring 2004	Administration of Grade 8 History cumulative test or breakout tests.

Other

1. **Q.** Will the cut scores remain the same?
- A.** As was done in 1998, standard setting will be completed after full implementation (2003-2004) of the 2001 History and Social Science Standards of Learning. New passing scores will be adopted by the Board of Education for these new tests.